

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed November 10, 2005 and the Advisory Action dated March 9, 2006 have been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1-44 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 27 and 44 being the only independent claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments

Independent claims 1 and 27 have each been amended to recite that “at least one of the audio/video appliances comprising one of a cassette player, a CD player, or a digital audio tape player”. Support for this limitation is found at page 5, lines 8-11; page 14, lines 10-12; and Fig. 1 of the specification. New claim 44 is added which is similar in scope to independent claim 1 and further recites “a visual output unit operatively arranged in said operating unit for displaying the classified information about the available audio/video presentations independently of the audio/video appliances, thereby creating an appliance-independent user interface”. Support for this limitation is found at page 6, lines 13-15; page 16, lines 6-7; page 18, lines 8-10; and Figs. 1-2 of the specification.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 4, 6, 11-15, 17-20, 27, 29, 31-34, and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,574,514 (Tanihira) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,574,514 (Klosterman) and U.S. Patent No. 5,973, 722 (Wakai).

Claims 2 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Tanihara, Klosterman, and Wakai and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,623,613 (Rowe)

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Tanihira, Klosterman, and Wakai in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,141,036 (Katayama).

Claims 7, 8, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Tanihira, Klosterman, and Wakai in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,751,581 (Ishiguro).

Claims 9, 10, 24, 25, and 38-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Tanihira, Klosterman, and Wakai in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,526,581 (Edson).

Claims 21 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Tanihira, Klosterman, and Wakai in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,232,539 (Looney).

Claims 22, 23, and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Tanihira, Klosterman, and Wakai in view of WO 99/35009 (Beckert).

Claims 26 and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Tanihira, Klosterman, and Wakai in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,157,725 (Becker).

Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Tanihira, Klosterman, and Wakai in view of EP 0 560 593 (Kawamura).

Independent claims 1 and 27

Each of the independent claims 1 and 27 now recites “transmitting information about available audio/video presentations from the audio/video appliances to a control unit using a local network connecting the audio/video appliances and the control unit, the information including one or more classifications of the audio/video presentations, at least one of the audio/video appliances comprising one of a cassette player, a CD player, or a digital audio tape player”.

It is respectfully submitted that the combined teachings of Tanihira, Klosterman and Wakai fail to teach or suggest this limitation because none of the applications taken alone or in combination teach or suggest that a cassette player, CD player, or a digital audio tape player submits information about the available audio/video presentations to a local area network to which they are connected.

The Examiner acknowledges that Tanihira fails to disclose that the audio/visual appliances transmit information about the available audio/visual presentations. As discussed in prior amendments, Wakai also fails to teach or suggest this limitation because Wakai discloses that control data used to configure and control the system is loaded into the system through floppy disks (see col. 12, line 66 to col. 13, line 6 of Wakai).

Klosterman also fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the amended limitation “transmitting information about available audio/video presentations from the audio/video appliances to a control unit using a local network connecting the audio/video appliances and the control unit, the information including one or more classifications of the audio/video presentations, at least one of the audio/video appliances comprising one of a cassette player, a CD player, or a digital audio tape player” because Klosterman discloses only that receivers which receive programming information from an outside or external source transmit the information.

Klosterman specifically discloses a method and system for merging television guide information from at least two different sources (i.e., local cable provider and a satellite provider). Fig. 1a discloses a system in which a television 22 is connected to a cable box 26 and an integrated receiving decoder (IRD) box 28, wherein cable programming signals are provided by the cable box 26 and Direct Broadcast Satellite System (DBS) signals are provided by the

IRD box 28 (see col. 4, lines 3-5, of Klosterman). The television set 22 and a VCR 24 are provided with inputs from the cable box 26 and the IRD box 28 (col. 3, lines 66-67). The IRD box 28 receives television program schedules and provides the schedule to the system (col. 4, lines 48-51). The cable box 26, antenna 34 and other inputs 30 similarly receive schedule information (col. 4, lines 59-62). A coordinator 20 finds and sorts program information by connection to the source (col. 4, line 65 to col. 5, line 1). Accordingly, Klosterman discloses that only receivers which receive the available programming information from an external source transmit the information to a network. The VCR in Klosterman does not transmit information about available presentations. Accordingly, there is no teaching or suggestion for one of a cassette player, a CD player, or a digital audio tape player to transmit information about available audio/video presentations from the audio/video appliances to a control unit, as expressly recited in each of independent claims 1 and 27.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, independent claims 1 and 27 are deemed to be allowable over the prior art of record.

Independent claim 44

New independent claim 44 recites “a control unit connected to one of said plural nodes and having a control program and a memory which stores the information about the audio/video presentations transmitted by said audio/video appliances and classifies the information into classes”, “an operating unit connected to said control unit”, and “a visual output unit operatively arranged in said operating unit for displaying the classified information about the available audio/video presentations independently of the audio/video appliances, thereby creating an appliance-independent user interface”.

The Examiner states that the original limitation of "a visual output unit" in claim 1 is disclosed by Wakai. However, claim 44 further recites that the visual output unit is arranged in the operating unit. In contrast, Wakai discloses that the programming content is disclosed on the screens or displays which are used to show the programs (see col. 15, lines 55-57). Furthermore, these screens are separate from control handsets 1108, i.e., operating units (see col. 15, lines 40-45; and Fig. 11 which are used to control that which is shown on the screen.

Accordingly, independent claim 44 is also considered to be allowable over the prior art of record.

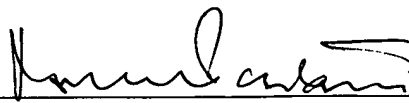
Dependent claims

Dependent claims 2-26 and 28-43, each being dependent on one of independent claims 1 and 27, are deemed allowable for at least the same reasons expressed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 27, as well as for the additional recitations contained therein.

Payment in the amount of \$50.00 is enclosed for the addition of one (1) new claim in excess of 20.

The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
COHEN, PONTANI, LIEBERMAN & PAVANE

By 
Thomas C. Pontani
Reg. No. 29,763
551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1210
New York, New York 10176
(212) 687-2770

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